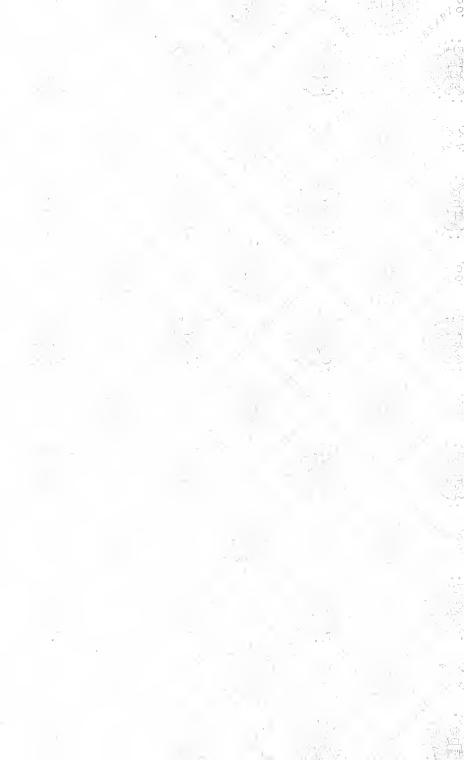
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History of the Grand Army of the Republic and New Brunswick's Representation in the Civil War

By JOHN LAWRENCE

Past Department Commander



Read at a Meeting of the New Brunswick Historical Club, March 18, 1909

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History of the Grand Army of the Republic and New Brunswick's Representation in the Civil War.



Past Department Commander John Lawrence.

John Lawrence, past department commander of the Grand Army of New Jersey read a paper at the March meeting of the New Brunswick Historical club on "History of the Grand Army of the Republic and New Brunswick's Representation in the Civil War." There was a good attendance, including many veterans. The paper was the most comprehensive on that subject prepared here and

will go down in history as an authority on New Bruuswick's part in the win

on New Britiswick's part in the will Mr. Lawrence was warm'y congratu-

lated by many of the professors present on the excellence of his work and the rules were suspended and as was made a member of the society

The paper is in full—as follows:
A short history of the Grand Army
of the Republic and New Bruns

w. k. be reservation in the Civil War read outlose the Historical Club of New Brunswick, R. (gers Colleg), Musch 48, 49.9;

At the close of the Civil War when the services of the great volunteer army were no longer required, nearly one million and a quarter men were sent to their homes without consing the slightest distribution in the body politic. This in itself was great achievement and could scarcely possible under any other flag but ours. The professional man went back to the practice of his profession, the mechanic to his trade, the clerk to his store and ledgers, and their return was They left behind them hardly noticed. on the various battlefields of the South more than 300,000 men who had given their tives that the nation should live,

Many thousands returned maimed for ife and rnable to earn a livelihood. All over the north were women in the weeds of widows who had been deprived of their natural support, and many fatherless children were clinging to them for their daily bread,

Mayor Stephenson's Idea.

It was under these conditions that Major B. F. Stephenson conceived the idea of a great fraternal organization, that should bind the 1,250,000 men in a bond of friendship, Dr. Stephenson in the practice of his profession in Danville, Ill., encountered a great deal of misery eaused by the Civil War, and his idea was to start an organization that should not only bring out the fraternal spirit of the veterans, but might also mitigate the sufferings of the widows and orphan children of those with whom they had fought side by side. The war had made the soldiers tent mates and under the canvas one night in February, 1861, the grand idea came to the doctor to form a society that would perpetuate the friendship and valor of the war. The idea was discussed together in their camps and weary marches and while lying on their arms, awaiting the crash of battle; and the very seriousness of the situation while beightened their mutual reliance emphasized also the beauty of an organizacion that would bring into the peaceful purs its of life similar qualities of love and he pful comperation. The project was not at that time worked out to their entire satisfaction, but after the master out they kept in correspondence und close toneh with each other. This as in the 14th Plinois Volunteer Infantry of which Dr. Stephenson had been

G. A. R. is Organized.

Finally, in March, 1866, a meeting was held in Springfield, Ill., at which this

poble organization, unprecedented in the annals of history was given to the world. A large number of prominent 1 linoisans and or or officers were present at this meeting where a ritual was prepared and die members sworn to secreey, meeting resolved to organize themselves into a post of honor and named it "Lost Honor." This was the first orgipized pos of the Grand Army of the Republic. They also formed themselves in o a provisional department, electing Dr. Stephenson as the first department (or State) commander. A State encampment was held in Illinois, July 12th, 1866, at Springfield, at which General John M. Palmer, was elected department Commander. The first national encampum nt was held on November 20th, 1866, at Indianapolis. Dr. Stephenson presided and Gen. S. A. Hurlbut was elected the first commander-in-chief, and Dr. Stephenson was elected adjutant general At first these national emcampments were of a brsiness nature but as the order grew, and the encampments were held at remote places, the need of something of a lighter character was apparent and various s_0 cial customs were grafted on. are delightful re-unions, looked forward to by the veterans and their families with pleasure. Yet they have lost nothing in dignity or capacity for business thereby, and have gained immensely in popularity,

The Brotherhood of Battle,

Thus was this Grand Army of the Republic the brotherhood of battle, born of the everlasting kinship of a common 'ove of country, of a mutual bravery; of dangers shared and of a united, unfaltering purpose. It had in it, too, not only the leaven of life but growth also; planted in a little tent, to blossom out in monster · enacmpments. The war bred a caunishness of spirit that could not die when the war ended. It is a brotherhood of men as well as memories. The necessary distinctions of war were swept away when the war ended. All men are equal in its councils and work; they stand side by side, shoulder to shoulder, in that final murch of life, which ends only in the eternal bivouae, Privates josti als, all sorts and conditions of men are in its ranke, even presidents of the United States have been in its ranks and gloried in the fact that they were en titled to wear the little bronze button of the order.

The purpose of the G. A. R. above all others is to minister to the needs of those sorrowing, widows and helpless children left behind by those who wave up their lives for "Old Glory". It is unique

and perhaps, the most remarkable again ization ever called into being by erream. stances; for only those who fought In the most gigantic rebellion in history one gointo its ranks. An honorable dischage from the United States between April 1 1871 and April, 1895, Is the only quality eation for membership; save that no man rpen whom the stain of treason rests can be admitted to membership. Men of all ranks in life have honored it with the. presence. Four Presidents of the United S ares have been provid to wear the insigna of the order. Unit d. States senators, representatives in congress, indges, governors legislators, and in fact, men from every walk in life have been provid to claim efflicien with it. Our own congressman the Hon, B, F. Howel may be seen in the hall of our national legislatare wearing in the lapel of his coul the bronze briton of membership. Its cardipal principles are fraternity, charity and loyally. Other organizations claim to be frateria, but if one would see real fraternity, let him come to a meeting of the G. A. R., for no friendship is so strong as that we'ded during the heaf and in the blood of battle,

Branke Button "Open Sesame."

In G. A. R. post rooms no introduction is pocessary. A button in the coat is sufficient to bind two old veterans in a bond that can only be severed by death. I say advised'y being a member of other fraterral societies, that nowhere is that principal more strongly exemplified than among members of the G. A. R. We are also taught the broad principle of charity-pet that alms-giving that parades itself before the world, but chari'v on the principle that we should not let our right hard know what our left hand doeth; on the principle of the Golden Rule. Thousands of widows and orphan children will rise up in the great day and call the G. A. R. blessed Only eternity will reveal the good the order has done. It is hardly necessary to say that we are loyal. We revere the flag, teach patriotism in the public schools, and to the youth whereever practicable, Chiefly through the efforts of the G. A. R., the flag of our country floats before or above almost every school house in the land. We are also targht reverence for our rulers, and are under a solemn pledge to work for good government and to frown upon disloyalty and anarchy in every form.

A Loyal Organization,

It seems hardly necessary to say that the G. A. R. is a loyal organization. With the Bible on its altar and the flag of the Union before us in every post room, our loyally has never been quesLated Seminary

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For allower against the proceeding tens of the solution, drugbours so or using a first of the form of the solution, drugbours so or using a first of prescribed and are conducted as the solutions as army courts muchic. Show a the defendant be forced greaty be on the suspended or expelled from the order. The verificities subject to the appear of of the department committees with \$\frac{1}{2} \text{to department committees where the gerision is first.}

Teaches Patriotism.

One of the chief doti s of the G A is to teach matriotism and revenere to the flag. A patriotic instructor is oppointed by the national enestapment and on the every department; who is the toipts one for ever post. Its dofy is to see that the rising a negation is to ablessons of patriotism and good govern-Memorial Day is peculiarly and ment. appropriately adapted for this process. and the most opportune for a tracting the youth to the most sublime purees of the creation and existence of the Grand A my of the Republic. We took upon ourselves a grave responsibility in the restort Those who are to follow us in the daties of citizenship are the mi bus of childrin, miny the offspring of the marrious who are flocking to our shores from for eign rections for happiness if I flowers No better insurance of pero in the di tain then the incidention of tech plashaving boffy purpos a und bod a especitions, that shall become as a stell in receptive minds. If we can che the ehildren to resize that they come to be other the ferure guardrins of the act of the protectors of our face to the Alech is the emblem of right as it is not the fit It will be a wonderful od to the est of sament of permanent took of the virial and a safeguard against the othe stirring days of the C. W.

The Grand Army of the Republic subode (α_0, β_1) arguest it is said to every β_1 dividual this proposition of the $(r-2)\beta_1$ log of he flag, the emblem of American betturight. Lessons of patriotism will not be lost in recognition of Memorial Day. The lawless will recognize the representation of authority, and the budding spirit of patriotism in youthful hearts will be expanded into a determination to oppose foreign or domestic foes. The heavtiful and impressive evenmony of decorating the graves of our dead compades, inaugurated by the G. A. R. has be n adopted by so many other organiza-



JOHN LAWRENCE,

From a Photograph taken at the Close of the Civil War, Upon His Return From the Front.

tions that the custom has become almost universal; and if after the G. A. R. has passed out of existence this beautiful custom is continued, it will constitute an additional legacy to future generations.

"Plag Day" Established

It was through the influence of this organization that Flag Day was established, and the beautiful display of our emblem of liberty on each June 11th will most fittingly celebrate the anniversary and

he a patriotic object lesson to the youth of the land. The custom of rising and these showing our respect for the flag whenever the "Star Spangled Banner" is sung or played was largely brought about by the G. A. R.

Thus I have outlined as briefly as possible the organization of this great pa triotic society; the principles for which it stands; what it has achieved since it has had its birth, and yet the half has not been told; of the widows and helpless comrades whose lives have been made happier through its ministrations. amount expended in such work reaches an almost fabulous figure. But it is sad to think that in a few years the G. A. R. will be only a memory. There is no possible way to perpetuate it as its member-ship is limited to certain men and will cease at their death, and the time can be almost named when this will occur; for be it remembered that it is 44 years since the great Civil War was brought to a successful issue by the surrender of the eremy. Those who participated in the struggle are now walking our streets with frosted hair, stooped shoulders and faltering steps, but proud of the legacy they will leave to their decendants. Attempts have been frequently made to incorporate the Sons of Veterans with the G. A. R. but every attempt of the kind has been frowned upon by the National body.

Numbers Smaller Each Year,

It may not be uninteresting at this point to give a few statistics of the rise and decline of the society. I will commence with the year 1878 and show its progress in membership up to and including 1906:

| , | $\Pi^*\Omega\Pi$ | ng m | Mr. | |
|---|------------------|------|----------------|------------|
| | In | 1878 | the membership | was 31.061 |
| | 9 4 | 1881 | 11 | 85,856 |
| | 9-4 | 1886 | 11 | ື323,571 |
| | 17 | 1890 | ** | 409,489 |
| | | | High Water. | |
| | 7.7 | 1894 | " | 369,083 |
| | 2.2 | 1898 | *** | 305,603 |
| | * * | 1902 | ** | 263,746 |
| | • • | 1906 | 9.9 | 235,823 |
| | | | | |

These losses since 1890 when the organization reached its zenith of prosper ity were chiefly by death, and 1 submit here the losses beginning with 1891:

| In | 1891 | loss by death | 1,708 |
|-----|------|---------------|--------|
| • • | 1894 | ** | 27.140 |
| •• | 1898 | *** | 13,853 |
| p-1 | 1902 | 17 | 5,806 |
| 41 | 1904 | ** | 10,249 |
| 91 | 1905 | ,, | 14,885 |
| 17 | 1906 | ** | 9,248 |
| | | | |

The percentage of deaths has increased since 1886 when the percentage was 0.93 to 3.90 in 1905, and as the years go by the percentage will greatly increase as

there are few in its ranks under 60 years of age. Through the efforts and influence of the G. A. R. national homes for disabled veterans have been established in several states, there being two in our own State of New Jersey, one at Kearny for men only and another at Vineland for veterans and their wives. These homes are maintained partly by the State, so these old and disabled comrades are tenderly cared for in their declining years,

So much bearing on the national organization.

Department of New Jersey,

The Department of New Jersey was organized as a department, Dec. 10th, 1867, its present membership being about 4,200. It ranks eighth in the order of seniority. The department consists of 106 posts, scattered all over the State, and it wields a great influence in the councils of the national body. The present commander-inchief is a member of Arrowsmith Post, No. 61, of Red Bank, the Hon, H. M. Nevins.

We are proud of our record as Jerseymen, for we hall from a commonwealth of long years standing, over whose soil trod the army of Washington in the struggly to establish this government, and which furnished about \$8,000 young men to perpetuate that government established by our fathers. Our little State farnished some men whose names add lustre to the American name, McClellan, Kearny, Sewell, Ramsey, McAllister Schoonover, Japeway, Truex, Runyon, Rusling, and a host of others, and her sons nobly upheld the honor of the State and added fresh lustre to the name of "Jersey Those who were fortunate enough to reach home did so without bringing a blot on the fair name of New Jersey. It has had for its commanders men who displayed the greatest bravery under fire and who distinguished themselves on many a bloody field. General Jardine was the G. A. Rs' firs' commander in 1998, and he has been succeeded by Gen. Ward, Gen. Goble, Major Burrows, Cols. Hufty, Millikin and Houghton, Gen. Campbell, Gen. E. Burd Grubb, Gen. Donne'ly, Col. Stahl and others including our present commander-in-chief. who left an arm on the field. All the commanders of our state department have upheld the dignity of the G. A. R. and have contributed to place the depar mont though small in numbers, in the posttion of influence it now occupies. An effort will be made at the coming national encampment of Solt Lake City to have it meet in Atlantic City in 1910.

New Brunswick Men in the Civil War

Before touching on the history of our local post, it may be made that to any that our own to vice containatel at a til quota to the Civil Wir tiples the first call of our multipled Petille t Lin cells for 3 months man, one fill con or, was sent to the front It we do a t ed Co K, Third New Jersey M. P. was under command of copy to trees the father of our own topt does the seems to have turned out to be a worths son of a noble sire and whom Rutgers College is proud to claim as an elemna Under the next call for 75,000 men for three years, our city furnished two fulcompanies of 160 men each, which were designated Co's P and G Pirst Regiment N. J. Vols. They were communical, respectively, by Capt lines Fouritt und Capt A. M. Way, and constituted a part of Gen, Phil, Kerny's Pirst N. J. Brl. gade Later, when another call was made by the president, the town agon furnished a full company of 100 men which was designated Co. B. Ninth N. J. Vols. was commanded by Captain C. W. Castner whose term of service with the 3 months men had expired. Later on, sill an other company was sent to the front and was attached to the Fourteenth Regim at as Co. K., Col. J. J. Janeway, was one of its original officers, being promoted to eaptain major lientenant colony and brevet colonel. Captain John Manning was also an officer of this company, and many of our best young men were in its ranks. Thus it will be somethat New Brunswick contributed 1% fell quota of men for the Civil War the above organizations being only a part of those who went. In addition to these companies many of the young men went into the Twenty-eighth Regiment, and other or ganizations and in the Navy So that it is safe to say that our city's ut over 700 young men to the front to help suppress the rebetion It may interest you to know that the

It may interest you to keep that the writer served in the same contains with several of the young men. I left Rutgers College and enlisted to the ranks. I recall the names of Public who tost his life at Gettysburg, RUss, Doney, Van Arsdale, Messerole, Vende off and Siebert. These young men belonged to the same class as the Rey A. Compled! Three of them become a vistus and Van Arsdale is now assisting three of the Christian Intelligencer. All fitted come them had commissioned office of the Thus you see that not only one if you between you see that not only one if you beloved Alma Mater contributed her share to the bloody contest.

City Sent 760 Men.

New B. usal k has no reason to be is a fined of the number of men she sent to be foul. Without having access to the axial figures, it is safe to say she from ished love; 700 men. Almost before e class of the first g n fired on Fort Sumpler had ceased to r verberate through the find a mass meeting was held in the Firs Reformed church; patriotic addresses who delivered but the climax was re ched when ex Mayor Garrett Conover sturied to sing the "Star Spanged Banmer,' which was taken up by the ardience, Using to their feet and waving handker chiefs, all showing the most unbounded Shortly after this meeting the call came for 3-months men and our city responded with more than could be consted. One company, Co. K. of the Third Regiment was accepted and sent to Washington as part of a Jersey brigade communided by General Theodore Runyon, O'r townsman, Stephen Moore was lieuterant colonel and John H. Janeway throth r of H. L.) was chaplain New Brunswick company was officered by Capt. Castner, First Lieutenant Samuel Ross and Second Lieutenant Geo, M. Sterre Owing to the short term of their entistment they saw no actual fighting. but left a memento behind them. For: Rinyon, which they built at the end of the Long Bridge and which constituted one of the principal defences of Washing-Many of this company re-enlisted for lenger terms.

Then came the call for 3-year men, and again New Brunswick came promptly to the front with more than her quote. Two companies F and G of the First Regiment, wers recruited and sent to the front. Both of these had been militia companies and formed a preclus of 200 men. Co. F being the old Deshler and Col G Olden Grands Co. F was officered as follows: Capt. Unos Forratt, Lieutenants Smith G. Blytle, David Thompson, Henry C. Warper, (N. H. VanArsdale now assistant editor of the Christian Intelligencer promoted from Co G), John H. Voorhees, L. L. P. Fikins, A. L. B'ne and Benj. Moffill.

The others of Co. G were Capt. A. M. Way. First Lieutenant J. D. Wyckoff. Robert Boggs, Carley Swan and Howard M. Gi'nean, a grandson of Rev. Dr. Webb., Co.t. Wev was promoted to major and Capt. Foreatt was appointed colonel of the Thirty third. Regiment, and participated in Sheaman's famous march from Atlanta to the ser. Both of these companies were part of General Phil. Kerny's brigade and participated in all the battles of the Army of the Potomac, from Bull Run to

Cold Harbor, after which many of the men re-culisted in other companies,

A Battle Incident.

I cannot refrain from mentioning an incident of the battle of the wilderness: Our Jursey brigade was on the extreme right of the line. During the engagearmi Lientenant Carley Swan, of Co. G had both legs shot from under him by a shell, and our line was pushed back some distance leaving Swan between the firing ines. Capt. Wyckoff with Christian fortitude and courage went to his dying 'e i runt and tenderly prayed that the Heavenly Father would be merciful to This was done with shot, shell and bullets flying thick around them. Such an example of courage should not re unrecorded.

The next fu'l company furnished by our city was Co, B, Ninth N, J, Vols., and Captain Castner having re-enlisted was placed in command, Charles II, Sofield and Thomas Bennett were subsequently captains of this company. The lieutenants were: L. Bartholomow, L. D. Sheppard, John Bennett, E. E. Hubbs, James Larghlin and R. E. Cogan, This regiment was with the Burnside expedition and participated in all its engagements from Roznoke Island to Go dsboro, N. C., March 21st, 1805, and made a record of which they may well feel proud. Co. K For teenth regiment was the next full commany permited here. It was officered by Capt. J. J. Janeway, afterwards promoted to major and lieutenant colonel and brevet colonel; Lieutenants John L. Manning, promoted to eaptain; Henry D. Bookstarur, James Chaffey, L. A. Hoffman and E. D. Mandeville, This regiment was mustered in Aug. 26th, 1962 and was commanded by Colonel, afterwards, General Truex, and had its first taste of battle at Monocacy, Md. It was afterwards transferred to the Third Division Sixth Army Corps under General John Sedgwick and added fresh lester to the name of Jersey Blue. Many young men enlisted also in Co. I, of this regiment, and should be credited to New Brunswick.

The next command to take the field was Co. H. First N. J. cava'ry, composed almost wholly of young men from this city Among its officers I find only two natives of this town—Lieutenant Al xander Canse, a son of a one-time sexton of the First Presbyterian church, and Alexander Stewart, who was killed in action.

Tribute to General Janemay,

Onite a number of our young men were also in Co. L. of this celebrated regiment, which was raised by Lieutenaut Hegh H. Janeway, assisted by his uncled theory L. Janeway, one of your honored

trustees. I wish I had ability to poerray the services of this young man, only 19 when he enlisted, but rose tapaday to the rank of captain, major, Eentening, exoneand brevet brightdier general. He was on of the first officers wounded and almost the fast to yield up his life in devotion to the Union. His was a fighting regimenand Col. Hogh was always in the trickes of it, seeming y taking delight in the elash of arms. No more intreped and no brover a sold in ever dreak school These seemed to be a brillian; career in store for him, but his death loves a shining mark. It was my pleasure to meet him often on the march, and he never failed to dismount from his magnificent black charger and have a char about home. A table to his memory adorns the walls of the First Presbyterian church. This reg iment has a distinguished record of 95 batt'es and skirmishes. It was for some time NAA brigaded with the commond of General John B. MackIntosh of this city The records of Co. F. Thirty-fifth Regiment disclose the names of a lot of New Brupswickers, Its captain was Ira C Carman, Lieutenants A. J. and S. J. Beek man, Wm H, Ludlow and Edward Ken-This regiment was first assigned nedy. to the defences of Washington, and afterwards assigned to the sixteenth and seventeenth Army Corps; took part in numer ous engagements under Sherman, and was in the femous march to the sea, and has an honorable record,

In Sept. 1862 New Brunswick again responded to the call for troops and a full company was sent to the front. This was Co. D. Taenty-eighth N. J. Vols.; Capt. William Dunham, and Lieutenants Augustus Ho field, William J. Cook and John H. Voerhe's. In addition to this company quite a number of men enlisted in other companies of this regiment. It was a 9-months regiment and participated in the bettles of Fredericksburg and Chance Torsville and acquitted itself with credit.

New Prensiviek was also represented in the Thirty-3% it Regiment with 80ccman Our city was represented in every branch of the service—infantry, cavalry, artillery (in Matter's A and B) the navy, signal corns and in fact in every depart ment of the cony and navy,

. dmiral Bogg's Services.

The many was well represented by our townsman, Can modore Charles S. Hogzs who distinct innetivity, and the many department is also enable to give him a commentation of the service, went to Connection of the rechased and fitted out

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History of Local G. A. B

The first post, and Kenny, No. 15, 1018 eganized in Sept 1808 and a colorsuch till 1872 when he is consentions, a number of mental and a post and organized a second post nect Col. High H. Joneway, No. 6 1, 1877 this post was consolidated and by past and the consolidited past was noned Kearny Janessay, No. 15, 1947 of national so until 1992 when a second post a sor garized and named Robert Boggs, No. after the son of Admiral Boggs | 1 ese two posts continued in existence of post when another consolidation as a consolid and a charter granted to B 228 Acres way Post, No. 67, which is selected as istence and is in a floorishing ordinar with 120 members - Hormony every its ranks and the post rachs tith a point of numbers and is quite into each in the department, oxing to the targe number of votes, neighborn, a in a conat the State encamping is the back by carried on the work for while the Grand Army was organized, and has done its full share of charitable of board die work. I can find nothing man concerate with which to class this is not true by using a quotation from W. Jam Ras sell Rose, entitled, "1801 1901

1861.

Out of the North, the book North, They came at the lifeth that it is defined as the Confection of the Links from They then deliberate of the lifeth of the Standard that a deliberation of the lifeth of the Theorem 1999 and the lifeth of the

So id at the down with its pulsing locat; Rychiae the fell of the training feet, so easy of markout in der the bine. Be obyard or gert and feetless and true, Layettels it has view assets so feet.

1901.

Slow'v they come with throb of drum, The flag with its scars above, In memory's name, the loyal flame They feed from the cruise of love. Saculder to shoulder, they come in view, Sine by side in the dear old blue; Halting and bent, and with faltering feet, Onward they plod, through the cheering street,

Burdens of age under blouses of blue—Many the dead, and the living so few, Loyalty's army, remnant of yore Drifts toward the mist of the silent shore.

JOHN LAWRENCE

March 18, 1909,





